

## Ken's Corner

### Advisory Council Renewal

Greetings and welcome to all advisory council members, both "veterans" and newcomers.

This spring, Parks and the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) completed a major effort to renew membership in the 37 advisory councils, asking all advisory council members to re-apply for their positions. To date 236 advisory council members have successfully completed the renewal process. In addition, we've added 59 new members. That brings the total advisory council membership to 295. Recruiting efforts are still under way to bring in additional new members.

This process was part of a strategy to strengthen our 28-year partnership among Parks, advisory councils and ARC. We also established "Programs through Partnerships," a "Dollars and Sense" cash-handling manual, a Baseline Standards Checklist and a Conflict of Interest policy to help keep the partnership healthy.

We are also committed to improving communication with our partners by keeping the information flowing. With this edition of "Connections" newsletter, we debut a new format, to be published six times a year. You will see articles and updates from advisory councils, the Board of Park Commissioners and Parks staff. If you have an upcoming special event or a point of interest you want to share, please send your information to Bill Keller [bill.keller@seattle.gov](mailto:bill.keller@seattle.gov) or David Takami [david.takami@seattle.gov](mailto:david.takami@seattle.gov)

As we gear up for the busy summer months at Seattle Parks and Recreation, I want to thank for all that you do for Seattle citizens. We couldn't do it without you!



Ken Bounds, Superintendent

## From the Prez

### ARC Focus for 2003

The ARC Board held its annual retreat in February to set goals for 2003 and establish committees to work on these goals. We began by taking a brief look at our goals for last year, which were centered on providing outreach to advisory councils.

We agreed that, while much progress has been made in this area, our focus for 2003 clearly should be to continue increasing our outreach to advisory councils emphasizing areas where advisory councils can work together as a system rather than as 37 independent units. With this in mind, we established the following goals for 2003:

- **Increase Advisory Council Outreach.** We will distribute a survey to all advisory council members to gather input on key issues and needs. We are also revising "Connections" newsletter (starting with this issue) to provide frequent and relevant information about what Parks, ARC and other advisory councils are doing. We will continue to strengthen our liaison program where every advisory council is assigned an ARC Board member as a liaison.
- **Provide Training Opportunities for Advisory Councils.** We will evaluate training needs and provide information to advisory councils. We plan to sponsor a grant writing seminar on July 19. We are also pursuing the possibility of serving as a clearinghouse for information on classes that are available through other sources.
- **Review ARC Structure.** We want to take a look at some of the basic principles governing how ARC operates – revisit our mission statement, review how we work with advisory councils and the Parks Department, and do some long-range planning to ensure that we are positioned effectively for the future.



**Fun in the sun at Colman Pool.**

(Continued on page 3)

## My Life and Times as a Seattle Parks Board Commissioner

By Kathleen Warren

It has been my great privilege to serve for the last 6+ years on the Seattle Parks Board. With so many years as close to the inside as you can get without actually working there, I can report that our Seattle parks are well loved, well managed and well used. Think of the park you know and use most. How many people in this world have access to the kind of park you love and enjoy? Aren't we lucky?

People like to complain about politically correct "Seattle process." But to me, it's a beautiful thing to see. Long, exasperating, confusing, contradictory, mind numbing, impenetrable? Yeah, sometimes it is. But as time goes by, what I see fundamentally is democracy in action, people willing to be involved. Many individual citizens have made a huge difference in the decisions that are made by offering public testimony, letters and e-mails. They often contain new and interesting insights and information. They are also often wildly contradictory, reminding us that in most cases, there is no one, single "public" view.

We are here to look for balance and fairness, to exercise good judgment, to think both short and long term. Public input prompts us to ask better questions, bring more issues to the light of day, have a more nuanced debate and make better recommendations. It ought to be difficult to make changes, because in most cases there are legitimately differing views that need time to circulate and percolate. Of course there are times when decisions are needed now and situations/conditions to take advantage of and one hopes that in the middle of working the process, the department is also able to remain nimble and take action when needed. Overall, I see that balance well maintained.

Here are a few quick final observations:

- Why would someone take the time to write to us and try to persuade us to their point of view, yet infuse their comments with suggestions we are being "paid off," we are stupid, we are not listening, we should be ashamed of ourselves. If you want to persuade, civility and reason are far better tools.
- Why would someone attempt to get their neighbors and friends involved but start with inaccurate information to fan the flames ("they are planning to cut down trees just to give a condo developer a better view"). No one is well served by starting off with lies. We are so quick to the angry draw.
- Still, the majority of communications are respectful and thoughtful and I have learned so much from listening to fellow residents.
- One thing I have learned; when you sit on the Board side of the table and see that 100 people have signed up to testify, three minutes per person seems an eternity. When you are on the other side and finally get your chance to speak, three minutes goes by

before you are barely warmed up.

- One of the many memories I have is being out on a first hand fact finding mission and being chased down a ritzy Queen Anne boulevard by the well-heeled and well-encroached neighbors who were outraged that we wanted our parks property back. All in all, it has been an exhausting but exhilarating volunteer experience. Thank you Parks staff for being so excellent at what you do. Thanks to the citizens of Seattle who cherish their parks so much and take care of them so well. Thank you fellow commissioners for being so intelligent and thoughtful, and for your friendship and kindness.

## Advisory Council Group Wins Apollo!

TURF, a Jefferson Community Center-based break dance group, recently won the talent search competition at Apollo Theatre in New York. The journey to Apollo stage began in December at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center's Apollo

Audition where more than 350 participants vied for 14 slots to compete on Paramount's stage in February. TURF's amazing athletic break dance performance won over the Seattle crowd and advanced to compete in New York at the famous Apollo Theatre.

Long before *American Idol* came along, the Apollo started in 1934 to showcase amateurs on stage and launched careers of artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Lauryn Hill, comedienne Mo'Nique, and Jaheim. The winners are selected by audience applause; those who don't make the grade are booed off stage.



Five of the TURF break dancers work at Jefferson Community Center for the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) advisory council's programs. "TURF has grown up in Seattle Parks and Recreation," said Jefferson coordinator Randy Smith. Under the direction of artistic director Sonya Boothroyd, the group is comprised of young people, age 16-24, from Philippines, Japan, Ecuador and United States. "They are so excited about the New York win and will return to Apollo in late June to compete against the year's weekly winners," said Ms. Boothroyd.

TURF's win is not only an achievement for youth of Jefferson Community Center but also a victory for Jefferson Community Center and the Seattle Parks and Recreation ARC system. Congratulations one and all!



**TURF dancers**

### Suitcases of Hope

Green Lake Community Center's Teen Development Leader Monica Wort is organizing a unique effort to help Seattle's foster children. These children often have no more than a plastic bag in which to carry their belongings. With your help, we hope to change that by donating decorated suitcases to them. Please help us brighten an otherwise gloomy day for a Seattle child!

Youth can help by bringing your creative ideas to life decorating and personalizing a suitcase or two; Adults can help by donating new or used luggage, art supplies, and your ingenuity.

If you're interested, please call Monica Wort, Teen Development Leader at Green Lake Community Center, 206-684-0780.

Decoration dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 25 to June 17

Time: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Green Lake Community Center, 7201 E Green Lake Drive N

### Annie's Playground at Meadowbrook Community Center

By Kiki Hendren, ARC Liaison

Annie Yasuda was an outgoing two-year-old who loved to go to the park, play on the swing and slide, and build things in the sandbox. It was an obvious decision for Annie's parents, when she died just shy of her third birthday, that building a playground in her honor would be a fitting tribute to Annie.

Glenn and Lauren along with "Friends of Annie's" have worked diligently to raise money any way they can: selling T-shirts, holding pancake breakfasts, bake sales and an auction. They have applied for matching Neighborhood Matching Fund grants, worked with a team of designers, researched playground apparatus, all while teaching full-time and raising Annie's twin, Sophie, and big brother Natey. The process has been overwhelming, the learning curve tremendous, but the focus steadfast.

Meadowbrook Community Center will inherit a playground where kids will once again enjoy the sandbox, swings, slide, picnic area, and where the Yasudas can look at their hard work and see the joy that Annie has brought to so many.

If you would like to learn more about the project or make a contribution to Annie's Playground, please go to [www.anniesplayground.org](http://www.anniesplayground.org)



Continued from page 1

▪ **Review ARC Bylaws.** We'll take another look at the ARC bylaws to make sure they are accurate and clear. To support the accomplishment of these goals, we established the following committees and elected committee chairs:

**Budget Committee:** William Lowe, Chair

**Bylaws Committee:** Ed Hiroo, Chair

**Opportunity Fund Committee:** Darrell Drew, Chair

**Outreach Committee:** Kiki Hendren, Chair

We welcome your feedback on our goals for 2003 and encourage you to join us on any of our committees.

If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call at (206) 725-5726 or e-mail me at [annamartin@earthlink.net](mailto:annamartin@earthlink.net). I look forward to working with all of you.

— Anna Martin, ARC Board President

### Opportunity Fund Aids Japanese Garden

By Anita Madtes

Japanese Garden Advisory Council Secretary

Spring is finally here and the Japanese Garden is in full bloom! If you haven't had a chance to visit, now is definitely the time. The azaleas and rhododendrons are in full flower and the koi are back in the pond, their brilliant colors easily visible beneath the waters surface. Whether you come for the flowers, to feed the koi, or to participate in a scheduled event, the garden is a genuine treasure here in Seattle. It is amazing to think that this beautiful garden is beginning its 43<sup>rd</sup> season!

The Japanese Garden Advisory Council is particularly excited about 2003 and all the wonderful events we are able to present because of the Opportunity Fund Grant. In March, we opened the garden with a ritual Shinto blessing ceremony, a rich cultural event that sets the stage for an auspicious new year. April had a number of fun events including tea demonstrations, amateur photography, and free landscape design consultations by landscape architects.

Money received from the Opportunity Fund Grant has enabled the JGAC to offer a broader range of programming for events in the garden. We invite you all to attend our upcoming events, which are listed on the garden web site [www.seattlejapanesegarden.org](http://www.seattlejapanesegarden.org) or on the Seattle Parks web site at [www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm).

We want to thank our fellow advisory councils for their generous donations to the Opportunity Fund and the Opportunity Fund Committee for supporting our grant request. This money is allowing us to offer a broader range of programs to the residents of Seattle and helping us to show garden visitors a taste of Japanese culture. Thank you all again for your generous support!

## Special Events

### **Ballard Pool (684-4094)**

#### **Ballard Pool's 30th Anniversary Celebration**

Saturday, June 28, 2003

3 to 6 p.m.

Free swimming, food, games, information booths, music and prizes.

### **Bitter Lake Community Center (684-7524)**

#### **Narrowing the Gap,**

Teen Intergenerational Service Learning Project

April 29-June 10

5:30-7:30 p.m.

#### **Parents Night Out**

Saturday, May 31

6:30-9:30 p.m.

### **Southwest Community Center (684-7438)**

#### **Family Science Night**

Wednesday, June 4

6:30-8:30 p.m.

### **Hiawatha Community Center (684-7441)**

#### **Mediterranean Fantasy:** 200 belly dancers

Saturday and Sunday, July 19 and 20

## UPCOMING GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Featuring:

**Jane C. Greever**

author of

***The Foundation Center's  
Guide to Proposal Writing***

- ◆ Learn from the expert
- ◆ Sharpen your grant proposal writing skills
- ◆ Win more grants

**Save the date: July 19**

More details to follow

Associated Recreation Council  
100 Dexter Ave. N.  
Seattle, WA 98109

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 900